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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

To: New York From: Counterterrorism
Re: [REDACTED] 199N-NY-NEW, 08/28/2001

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 08/28/2001

From: Counterterrorism
ITOS/Usama Bin Laden Unit/SIOC CAT A
Contact: IOS Dina M. Corsi (202)323-2808

Approved By: Middleton Rodney D

Drafted By: Corsi Dina M:dmc

Case ID #: [REDACTED] 199N-NY-NEW (Pending)

Title: [REDACTED] Khalid M. Al-Mihdhar

[REDACTED]
Khalid Al-Mihdha,
Khalid Al-Midher

Synopsis: [REDACTED] Request to open a full field intelligence investigation.
[REDACTED]

Administrative: [REDACTED] The following contains information from [REDACTED]
This information is not cleared for review by agents working Usama Bin Laden criminal matters. Prior approval from FBIHQ must be obtained before forwarding this information to any agent working Usama Bin Laden criminal cases.

Details: [REDACTED] FBIHQ has recently received information from INS that Khalid M. Al-Mihdhar arrived in New York City on July 4, 2001, via Saudi Arabian Airlines Flt. 00053. Al-Mihdhar's I-94 indicates that he arrived on a B1 visa issued in Jeddah, KSA on 6/13/01 and provided his address in the United States as the Marriott Hotel (NFI), New York City.

[REDACTED] According to INS Al-Mihdhar had previously traveled to the United States on January 15, 2000 with an associate identified as Nawaf Al-Hazmi. Al-Mihdhar and Al-Hazmi

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*Declassified upon use at Trial
by: UC, CTU1, OGC, FBI
on: 03/17/2006*

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arrived in the United States via United Airlines Flt. 00002 from Bangkok, Thailand. Both carried B2 visas. Al-Mihdhar and Al-Hazmi stayed at the Sheraton Hotel (NFI), in Los Angeles, CA. On that occasion, Al-Mihdhar remained in the United States until June 10, 2000, when he departed via Lufthansa Flt. 457. The date of Al-Hazmi's departure is unknown at this time.

In late-1999 the CIA was monitoring potential operational planning by an Islamic extremist identified only as Khalid LNU. As part of their analysis, CIA obtained information from NSA that in late 1999, a suspected Islamic extremist known as Khalid was planning to travel to Malaysia with an associate, identified only as Nawaf. Khalid was associated with a suspected terrorist facility in the Middle East used by individuals in the attacks against the East Africa embassies and USS Cole. The facility is well known to the intelligence community as providing support to Al-Qaeda world-wide.

Al-Midhar eventually finalized plans to depart for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in early 2000. Al-Midhar planned to meet Nawaf in Kuala Lumpur.

The United States Government obtained information that on January 8, 2000, Al-Midher, traveling under the name Khalid al-Midhar, and an individual identified as Nawaf al-Hazmi, departed Kuala Lumpur and traveled to Bangkok, Thailand.

[REDACTED] The similarity in the names and travel destinations indicate that Khalid Al-Midher and Nawaf Al-Hazmi are identifiable with the individuals who traveled to the United States on January 15, 2000. The correlation of Al-Midher's original travel to Malaysia with operational activity by Al-Qaeda and his association with a known Al-Qaeda [REDACTED] facility [REDACTED] make his possible presence in the United States a potential threat to United States' interests.

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[REDACTED] Furthering that suspicion is a potential association between Al-Midher and USS Cole suspects, Fahd Al-Quso and Ibrahim Nibras. During his interview by FBI agents in Yemen, Al-Quso originally told interviewers that on approximately January 6, 2000, he and Nibras traveled on a Gulf Air flight from Yemen to Kuala Lumpur via Dubai, UAE.

[REDACTED] Al-Quso and Nibras ultimate destination was to be Bangkok, where he and Nibras would pass Khallad Bin Attash, the suspected financier of the Cole operation, \$36,000 (US) which had been sent to Khallad from his parents. Al-Quso later retracted that statement and claimed he and Nibras traveled from Yemen to Bangkok where Thai authorities refused to allow the two to travel onward to Singapore because they did not possess the proper travel documents. Thus the money was passed to Khallad in Bangkok. Investigation of the USS Cole attack to date has not developed evidence to support either version of Al-Quso's story.

[REDACTED] Of further interest is the fact that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] According to Al-Quso, Nibras contacted his home where he left a message for Khallad as to where they could be reached when the two were not able to make their final travel destination.

[REDACTED] Based on the above, FBIHQ suggests FBINY review this matter and consider opening a full field intelligence investigation to determine if Al-Mihdhar is still in the United States. Al-Mihdhar's confirmed association with a [REDACTED] facility which provides support for terrorist operations and potential association with two individuals who were involved in the attack on the USS Cole make him a risk to the national security of the United States. The goal of the investigation is to locate Al-Mihdhar, determine his contacts and reasons for being in the United States, and potentially conduct an interview of him. FBIHQ has already requested Department of State to provide the visa applications filed by both Al-Mihdhar and Al-Hazmi.

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